

January 30, 2007

The Honorable Valerie Woodruff  
Secretary of Education  
401 Federal Street  
Dover, DE 19901

RE: 10 DE Reg. 1112 [DOE Proposed Extracurricular Activities Regulation]

Dear Secretary Woodruff:

The State Council for Persons with Disabilities (SCPD) has reviewed the Department of Education's (DOE) proposal to adopt a minor revision to its extracurricular activities regulations. The only change is to clarify that charter schools must establish academic eligibility standards for participation in extracurricular activities. The only exception is interscholastic athletics which are subject to State standards. The proposed regulation was published as 10 DE Reg. 1112 in the January 1, 2007 issue of the Register of Regulations.

SCPD endorses the proposed regulation. However, Council would ask that DOE reconsider the concept of disallowing participation in extracurricular activities which is behind the regulation. Council recommends that there not be any disincentives for students who may be struggling academically but are interested in extracurricular activities. SCPD prefers the development of a remedial plan to assist students to improve grades that may drop below participation standards while still allowing the student to participate in the extracurricular activity. Such a plan may help to alleviate the problem of dropouts and promote a greater sense of integration on the part of many students. Studies have shown that students who are involved in extracurricular activities are less likely to drop out, are better at time management and may actually perform at a higher level than their un-involved counterparts.

In summary, SCPD agrees that for the sake of equity, charter schools should establish academic eligibility standards for participation in extracurricular activities. In addition, Council recommends that the DOE review the concept of disallowing participation since extracurricular activities may help to alleviate the drop out rate and act as incentives for students.

Thank you for your consideration and please contact SCPD if you have any questions or comments regarding our observations or recommendations on the proposed regulations.

Sincerely,

Daniese McMullin-Powell, Chairperson  
State Council for Persons with Disabilities

cc: Ms. Jean Allen  
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